

January 28, 1956

For the World of God

Evangel

pioneer issue



Question Box

NOTE: All questions addressed to "The Question Box" must be signed if they are to receive a reply. However, names will be withheld from publication if requested. Only the questions considered of general interest will be answered in the EVANGEL.

QUESTION: *What is the Cabala? Was it inspired of God?*—*Paul E. Bailey, Sanford, North Carolina.*

THE CABALA WAS a mystical system of scriptural interpretation. It assumed that every word, letter, number, and syllable of the Bible had a mystical or spiritual meaning. This system was developed by word of mouth but was eventually committed to writing. It began during the Middle Ages and lived until some time in the 1700's, for a period of about eleven hundred years. Its principal influence was among the Jews, for its original purpose was to spiritualize the Jewish scriptures and the Jewish religion. Judaism in those days had become entirely cold and formalistic. The system embodied a great deal of Neoplatonic thought and other similar philosophy which was elaborately entwined with the Holy Scriptures. By the very nature of the system, it gave birth to a great deal of superstition and mysticism. It spread to Christianity to a great extent and had considerable influence over Christians for a number of centuries. Worst of all, perhaps, was the fact that the Cabalistic system embodied many pagan practices that were directly opposed to Christianity. There are still a few Cabalists among the older Jews of Europe and the Middle East; but, by and large, Cabalism has died. It was by no means inspired of God; and even though its intention to improve Judaism could be considered commendable, it served chiefly to confuse true religion instead of helping it. A great number of books have been written on the Cabala and its relation to Christianity and Judaism, but it was always considered a greater curiosity among Christians than a serious system of scriptural interpretation.



COVER PICTURE

Recalling a bygone day is the nostalgic picture by Chloe Stewart of a pioneer preacher and his faithful wife as they arrive at the brush arbor for the night's service. Hanging from the protruding branch is the old petroleum lantern, which was almost the only means of illumination in those early days. People came for miles on foot and by wagon to sit on the comfortless log benches and listen to the impassioned man of God proclaim the Pentecostal message.



Coming Next Week
"FOREIGN MISSIONS ISSUE"
A survey of our mission efforts

Vol. 46—No. 47

January 28, 1956

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Editorial | 3 |
| The Church: Its Past, Present and Future | R. P. Johnson 4 |
| | and 5 |
| | M. P. Cross |
| Our Heritage—and What It Means to Us Today | 6 |
| | W. Paul Stallings |
| Some Pioneers I Have Known | Zeno C. Tharp 7 |
| "If I Could Live Life Over"—A Symposium | 8 |
| Trailblazers of Pentecost | 10 |
| In Memoriam | 12 |
| Report | 13 |

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70,000 EVANGEL SUBSCRIPTIONS DURING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH

70

Church of God Evangel

Official organ of the Church of God

Charles W. Conn, Editor-in-Chief

Published Weekly by

Published Weekly by
The Church of God Publishing House

Cleveland, Tennessee—Phone 3800

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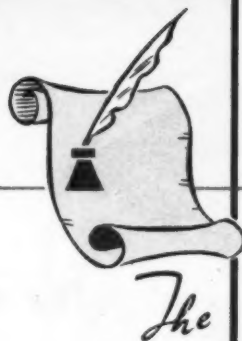


SUBSCRIPTION RATES

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Single Subscription, per year | \$1.50 |
| Single Copy | .05 |

Entered as second-class matter under act of March 3, 1879, at
Cleveland, Tennessee. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of
postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917.
Authorized August 23, 1918.

The Challenge of the Past



The Editor's Message

ONE OF THE greatest challenges to the Church of God today is the character of its earliest people. Today beautiful buildings and thriving congregations are found all across the land, but it has not always been so. In most sections of the country Pentecostal ministers are accepted and in many they are accepted with honor. This has not always been so.

The earliest days of the Church of God were difficult days because the Pentecostal people had a spiritual experience that was not understood, a vision that was shared by few others, and a consuming love for God and passion for souls. This branded them as fanatics or zealots; therefore, their presence was undesirable or intolerable in most places. Their preaching was a rebuke to sin and their lives a rebuke to lukewarmness.

Our earliest preachers lacked the social stature to command acceptance, the educational training to command attention, and the financial backing to command tolerance. They had only the Spirit of God and their own strength of character upon which to stand.

The Church of God of today owes a great deal to these pioneers of the Pentecostal faith. They preached when preaching had few compensations and no distinction except that accorded them under God.

These heralds of the full gospel were not given adequate checks by their church clerks for their services, but they strove to make ends meet with nickles and pennies. One of them wrote me recently, "my biggest collection was in sticks and stones." Still another wrote, "After my expenses were taken out for one month, I had thirty cents left. I sent my tithe to headquarters, which was three cents." This, mind you, was for full-time ministry. My heart has been challenged by correspondence with our retired ministers as I have prepared this issue of the *Evangel*. As I read their replies to my questions, I was able to see their struggles, their battles, and their sacrifices. We know what battles are today, and we know how to struggle. There is also a great deal of sacrificing today. Our earliest members, however, knew the full meaning of the word "sacrifice," and their sacrifices were threefold—economic, social, and physical. The ministry to them was a calling and not a profession, and callings are seldom lucrative and not always remunerative. Their decisions were not made through avarice or the duress of a high standard of living. It sufficed them if they could just "get by." It should be so with us today. If the ministry should become mainly or primarily a means of livelihood, it has then been degraded from a calling to a profession. We are responsible to God to give Him our service, and He is responsible to us to supply our need.

All Pentecostal people were socially rebuffed merely by accepting the Pentecostal faith. Their only social status was that attained by their own character and their benefit to their communities. They could not claim social stature because of high birth—aristocracy or plutocracy—

but they certainly were not outcasts, for they were honorable people. Their lack of acceptance was because of their convictions and because of their religious ardor. Often their former friends and associates turned against them. They were cursed, despised, scorned, and ordered to leave many a town where they would have preached the gospel of Christ.

Their physical jeopardy was constant. As one preacher wrote me, "I have been stoned, had rotten eggs thrown at me, my life has been threatened more than once." Another wrote that he was "twice stoned; knives and guns were drawn on me; I was knocked down three times and had my nose broken." Grocers refused to sell some food. Some had their tents burned and cut to shreds. Some were arrested and jailed. Persecution was a real thing during their ministry, but their conviction was too great for them to be deterred in their purpose. There was little sanctuary for them from the abuse of the world.

They had no splendid church buildings for their services and no convenient places of worship; therefore, they preached wherever they could. One pioneer wrote me, "My early ministry was in brush arbors, old school buildings, and roadside meetings." Still another wrote, "During my ministry we have had meetings in tents, brush arbors, old tobacco barns that first had to be cleaned, old store buildings, and in people's homes." They walked or made their way as best they could to their places of worship.

The hardness of those pioneer days did not turn those stalwart hearts back from their vision. They not only pressed on, but did so joyfully. One aged old warrior wrote me, "I have gone through hardships in the years past, but count it all joy. I will soon meet the One I have worked for all these years, and all those I have won for the Lord. That will be wonderful."

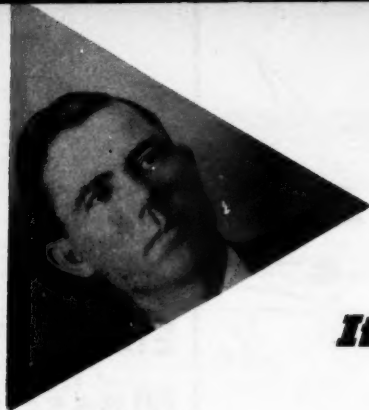
Another has written me, "I have never regretted the day I made up my mind to work for God. I had rather suffer for God than have the world."

How can such a spirit be vanquished? It cannot.

These are the servants of God that have blazed a trail before us. They saw the face of One whom the world could not see. They marched to music the world could not hear. They had a conviction the world could not comprehend.

Now most of the earliest pioneers have departed this race, and many of the later pioneers are passing. They

(Continued on page 14)



The Church:

Its Past, Present and Future

By R. P. Johnson

REVIEWING PAST CONDITIONS is done by giving attention to that which is either recorded on paper or stamped on one's memory. Comparing past with the present is done by taking account of present existing conditions and placing the two side by side or face to face. Since this is the "Pioneer Issue" of the *Evangel* and I have enjoyed the acquaintance and worked with and under some of the pioneers, I feel sure that the reader will think none the less of me for paying liberal attention to some of the conditions they faced:

PUBLIC OPINION AND POSITION—The public's general opinion of pioneers classed them as religious fanatics going about confusing and disturbing the people by preaching and teaching a new and dangerous, false religion. The general position of the public was that of either active opposition, disgust or cold indifference. However, those religious undesirables, in some way and by some means, were able to go about their work with such humility and boldness as to gain the favor of some who would assist them in securing the use of some places—as a school house, an empty store building, or a Mission Hall—or would help in building a brush arbor or, perhaps, open their own homes as places to hold meetings. This was not the exception, but more of the general condition faced by pioneers in starting and establishing churches. A great number of our leading churches of today had their start under such conditions. From this observation, we conclude that their successes and victories were not due primarily to public good will.

CONDITION OF FINANCE—The quitter would have called it financial handicap, lack of the necessities of life, et cetera. To you of today, who complain, will not go, or cannot stick and stay because neither the Headquarters nor State Fund will provide your financial wants, please go with me to the year of 1916—my first year in the church. Let us read the General Secretary's annual financial report and note that the grand total of all tithes paid into all local churches for the entire year were less than five thousand dollars. Total tithes sent to Headquarters for the entire year were less than five hundred dollars. Approximately, the same amount was sent to the several state offices to be shared among twelve state overseers which made less than forty-five dollars tithe of tithes for each state overseer for the year. However, the net gain in church membership was approximately thirty per cent. If we should measure success in terms of tithes received, one preacher of to-

day would shame the whole 1916 ministerial group—taking into account free house rent, paid utilities et cetera. The tithes received by many of today's preachers amounts to more in one month than was sent to Headquarters in the entire year of 1916.

Now brother, rush with me from 1916 to 1945. Let us take a look at the General Secretary's report and you will notice the total tithes paid into all the churches for the year were more than six million, four hundred thousand dollars; amount of tithes sent to General Headquarters was more than six hundred thousand dollars; approximately the same was sent to the several state offices. Comes the eye opener—the membership net gain was between four and five per cent. From this observation we conclude that having much finances is no positive assurance that true scriptural victories or successes ever have or ever will be ours.

We conclude that the successes and victories of the pioneers were due to their having and using something more and better than money, and that something must have been an inward condition which I feel safe in calling spirituality. This, to me, means being possessed with the spirit of humility, unselfishness, supreme love of God, love and practice of prayer, faith that pleased God, holy desires, a knowledge of the truth, the gift of wisdom and a willingness to render constant and true service regardless of the sacrifices and sufferings involved.

IN FAIRNESS TO THE PRESENT, we agree that the Church now faces unfavorable conditions. While it is in much better financial condition than it was forty years ago, and the workers are much better educated, yet, because of legal restrictions and regulations, in some ways it is more difficult to open a new work now than it was in the earlier days. For example, a typical southern city of thirty-five years ago had very few restrictions; workers could get a permit to open a mission, pitch a tent, or even start revivals in private homes, provided the fire department saw that no fire hazard was created. This was the only legal condition that was required of me. Today, the same city has zoning laws, traffic safety laws, parking laws, construction laws, health laws, and other restrictions (mainly justifiable), so numerous and binding that it makes it at least as hard, perhaps harder, to open and establish a new work as it did in pioneer days.

(Continued on page 14)

Two pioneers of the Pentecostal faith take a three-fold look at their labors for God

By M. P. Cross



IT WAS IN THE FALL of 1919 that the state overseer of Georgia asked us to pastor the Crane Eater and Sonoraville churches. This was, we learned later, quite a nice promotion from "The City of Gold" (Dahlonaga) where I was pastoring at the time. Without asking any questions, we packed up (our trunks and suitcases was about all) and made the move, not knowing whether we were being promoted or demoted. Really, *promotions and demotions* never entered our minds in those days, but we found that Crane Eater was one of the better churches in the state and Sonoraville was not a bad little church. Since my wife and I were both preachers the state overseer thought we could pastor both of them.

The overseer had given me the addresses of the clerks and the locations of the churches (both were in rural areas) but had not said anything about a place for us to live. Of course, we had not expected him to do the latter; as it was taken for granted in those days that a pastor could find his own place to live—probably an old shack that had been deserted; and, of course, there would be some old pieces of furniture that members and friends had discarded, which could be picked up in the barns and smokehouses and nailed or wired together and cleaned up. Anyway, a preacher was a person who had given all to follow Jesus. Wasn't he? And wasn't it written of Him that He had "no place to lay his head"?

Sure enough, after staying a night here and a night there (and the folks seemed happy to have us in their homes) and roaming through the country making inquiry during the day, we located an empty house in an old field, quite a distance from the public road. Since the last two churches we had pastored had been in the city, my wife was afraid to stay by herself—even for me to go to the mailbox. (If you could have seen the place you probably would not wonder at her being afraid.) She did not need any coaching to get her to keep that part of her marriage vow that said that she was to *cling* to me, or to follow the example of Ruth "whither thou goest I will go."

A notation in my diary says "Collecting things for housekeeping." With a pair of mules and a wagon, borrowed from one of the members, we picked up a piece of furniture here and a piece there until we had enough with the exception of a cook stove to arrange to eat and sleep at home. Apparently, no one had discarded an old,

burned-out, broken-down cook stove, recently, because we had to pay five dollars for a stove.

My diary for the next day is very brief, "Went to new home. Busy cleaning up." Apparently, there was not much time or energy for writing a diary that day and the other word following this notation is scrawled as if finishing a terrible task "t-i-r-e-d."

The people brought in milk and butter, chickens and eggs, vegetables and fruits and canned goods until we soon had a veritable storehouse of good things to eat; and in a couple of weeks the two churches got together and helped us to buy a horse and buggy so that we would have transportation between the two churches and a way to get around to visit the people. Within a few weeks after our arrival, we had organized a new Sunday School and people were getting saved in the meetings and in their homes.

The next year I was appointed as district overseer of the North Georgia district, and I was almost compelled to trade old Dolly and the buggy for a Ford since the district comprised all of the territory from Fairmount, Cartersville, and Rome to the Tennessee state line. A district overseer, in those days, was expected not only to visit and encourage the churches, but also to evangelize and organize new churches in the districts.

OUR SIXTH WEDDING anniversary falling on Sunday found us at Lindale, Georgia, for a morning service with a schedule to speak at North Rome in the afternoon and to preach at Calhoun and organize the Church there that night. (I had been preaching in Calhoun during the week and sometimes on Sunday afternoons for quite a while.) Well, while driving on level road between Lindale and Rome the differential gears tore out of the Ford, so there we were celebrating our wedding anniversary by being stranded on the road. My pocketbook was just as "broke" as the old car. I had to call Calhoun and postpone organizing the Church for two weeks, as that was my first opening. On July 30, 1922 I organized the Church of God in the nice little city of Calhoun, in Brother Kirby's front yard. (The congregation had long since outgrown the room in his house where I had been holding the meetings, so we were promoted to the yard.)

Of course, my next duty was to help the new church
(Continued on page 14)

OUR HERITAGE—

and what it means to us today

Psalm 16:6, "I have a goodly heritage."

By W. Paul Stallings
Pastor, Akron, Ohio

DAVID'S HEART must have been filled with joy and gratitude as he thought of the goodness of God. He knew the history of Israel well. Since childhood he had heard again and again the amazing account of the birth of his nation; how Jehovah had delivered his people from Egypt and brought them into this land. His father's ranch had been a part of this great inheritance. Many times he had thought of these things as he kept his father's sheep. Poems came to him, and he put music to them and sang them while alone on the Bethlehem hills. Well did he recall those experiences with the bear and the lion, the day Jehovah delivered the Philistine giant into his hands, and the prophet Samuel with his long flowing hair and deep piercing eyes, the oil, and the prophetic blessing.

Many years had come and gone since those memorable events—years of struggle and victory, years of sorrow, and years of joy. Now, as he looked back, no more fitting words could he think of than those of our text. "I have a goodly heritage." This simple statement comes to us filled with memories of those years.

Tender Memories

We too can look back over the last few decades and say with David, "I have a goodly heritage." It was my privilege to be born the son of a Church of God minister and to have been reared in such environs. Only recently, my father retired after forty-two consecutive years of active ministry in the Church. Many and precious are the memories of those pioneer days. They were days of privation, hardship, toil, and sacrifice. Nevertheless, they were happy ones. The providence of God was so real to us again and again as we literally lived by faith. It was in these times we learned that circumstances and conditions do not bring happiness, but faithful trust and loyalty to the will of God do. The experiences of those days become the memories of today. I am sure you will agree that such memories are a part of our great heritage.

Spiritual Singing

Someone has said that God's people have singing hearts. Paul must have thought so, for he instructed the saints at Colosse to "admonish one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." One of the outstanding characteristics of our Church has been its spiritual singing.



Many people have been attracted by it and later won to Christ. I recall inviting a good friend of mine to our General Assembly. He was a real Christian man of another faith who had been a great blessing to our church in that city. The opening service came, and we found a seat high in the second balcony. When that huge congregation of blood-washed, Spirit-filled people began to sing "Everybody Will Be Happy Over There," my heart was filled with joy and happiness and I forgot about my friend. Suddenly I thought of him and turned to see how he was getting along. Big tears were flowing down his cheeks as he worshiped the Lord with us. And so God has given His people a song and anointed lips to teach the hearts of men. Thank God for our heritage in song.

A Sincere Faith in the Word of God

To me, the greatest heritage given us by our pioneer ministers is their sincere, absolute faith in the Bible as the inspired Word of God. They believed that whatever the Bible said was so and made their lives conform to its fundamental concepts of Christian faith and conduct. It became their guide, their discipline, their pattern, their compass, their sword and shield as they marched onward like a mighty army. It was this fundamental concept which made possible the preaching of the full gospel. Like the Apostolic Church they were filled with the spirit and lived in an atmosphere of expectancy. Christ was with them; His spirit filled them; and they went everywhere declaring what good things God had done for them with healings, miracles, signs, and wonders following.

A Spiritual Church

Not only did they believe in the divine Word of God, but they desired a spiritual church, and insisted that it be as near like the one in the Book of Acts as possible. So they made it their pattern. They were tired of the dry, despiritualized religion of their day and sought one with power and authority; one that could speak peace and pardon to the troubled heart of the vilest sinner; one that could bring joy and gladness to every believer. So altars of prayer and praise became a vital part of their worship. Cottage prayer meetings, brush arbor meetings, tent meetings, street meetings, and camp meetings became the means by which the good tidings spread.

(Continued on page 14)

Some pioneers I Have Known

By Zeno C. Tharp,

General Overseer

A Reminiscence

AS WE THINK of the Church today, few of us take time to think of the sufferings, sorrows, sacrifices, and even bloodshed that it took to bring the Church to its present status. Even some of the men who are in prominent positions today spent many years in pioneer work trying to establish the Church in new fields and states where the Church of God and Pentecostal baptism were unknown. Of course, it is impossible for any one man to know of all the labors of the various ministers who hazarded their lives to spread this glorious gospel. Only eternity will reveal that. But I would like to mention a few whom I have known.

I think of Dr. J. A. Giddens, a dentist of Clearwater, Florida, who struggled to establish two churches while he labored with his own hands, only to have both of them burned to the ground the same night. Few of our preachers today have even heard of Dr. J. A. Giddens. He was the first overseer of Florida.

Then, there was T. M. Evans, a superannuated Methodist preacher, who had retired; but, when he received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, he united with the Church of God, gave up his pension, took what little money he had, bought a team of mules, and drove to Miami, Florida where he sold his team. He took the money, and sailed to the Bahama Islands as our first foreign missionary. After he had spent all that he had, he finally came home to die and was buried in a pauper's grave. But he planted seeds that have never died.

W. S. Caruthers, father of eleven children, gave up his farm and all earthly possessions to evangelize. He spent all he received from the sale of his home to support his family while he preached. He went hungry, saw his children barefooted, and out of proper food and clothing. He was appointed overseer of Florida when it had only a few churches. He died while yet a young man, but he is now rejoicing in the presence of the Lord.

The man who in my opinion established more churches in new fields than any other living man was J. W. Buckalew. He did not have someone to go ahead, hold a revival, get a number of converts and then call for him to organize a church. He took his tent and evangelistic party and went from one town to another where he set up his tent and usually stayed until a church was established. He preached throughout Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. He and his consecrated wife, who always stood by him regardless of the hardships, went hungry, slept on the benches in his tent, or on the ground for weeks at the time; suffered persecution, had little backing from the Church or the law, but set churches in order wherever they went. Some of our early lead-

ing ministers were converted in the tent meetings of J. W. Buckalew. He went down the coast of West Florida and preached in Tampa, Palmetto, Bradenton, Sarasota, Ft. Myers, and over in the center of the state. His new tent was burned in Alabama City while he was held in jail for preaching the gospel. While in the jail, he prayed, sang, and preached. When he was released from prison, he went back to where his tent had been; and, on the ashes, he established the church which today is the largest Church of God in Alabama. He was persecuted, put in prison, cut, shot at, and finally died, but he preached as few men preached. Not all the credit of his success goes to him, but much to his loyal wife who prayed him out of jail and out of the hands of angry mobs, as well as through seasons of discouragement many times. It was the prayers of his wife, Mattie, that held him up.

Rev. J. W. Culpepper, a pioneer of Georgia, traveled the state from one end to the other, was loved by all who knew him, and left his farm with his wife and children for weeks at the time to establish churches in Georgia.

Some of our pioneers are better known—as the late J. B. Ellis who with a large family gave up his worldly possessions to preach the gospel in the early days of the Church. He stood the persecution of his own church when he came into Pentecost, gave up his pulpit and preached under the trees and brush arbors or in tents, schoolhouses, and courthouses—anywhere he could get an opening. Eggs and rotten tomatoes were hurled at him more than once, but he always came out victorious.

F. J. Lee, an intellectual man—a pattern maker—who held a good position in the city of Cleveland, Tennessee, gave up all to become an outstanding minister in the Church of God, one of its greatest leaders, and, finally, the General Overseer. At his death he was, no doubt, the most loved man in the Church.

I need not mention here the pioneer work of W. F. Bryant, Spurling, and others whose names and works are recorded in the history of the Church of God, *Like a Mighty Army*.

WHILE MOST of these men already mentioned were working in the South, in Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, and Missouri, was a great pioneer—D. P. Barnett—who was sweeping the country for God even though he had not heard of the Church of God. Later, he led his flock into its fold. His influence for God and His Church will never die.

Efford Haynes, pioneer in Ohio, preached and sang the
(Continued on page 15)

If I Could Live Life Over

A Symposium

Eight Church of God pioneers discuss frankly

what they would wish

to do if their life could be lived again.



Lee

Mrs. F. J. Lee

SISTER FLAVIUS J. LEE, a devout Christian lady who has been bedfast and helpless for more than four years, has this to say if she could live life over, "I only would try to do more for the Lord." Sister Lee does not have any regrets for the way she has conducted her life. She is one of the most faithful Church of God members the church has, having lived a Christian life for almost fifty years.

During her husband's lifetime, Sister Lee worked with him in his evangelistic meetings. They sang specials together in the services and prayed for the sick and troubled. Working during the altar services seemed to be her special calling. As many of you know, Sister Lee is the wife of a former General Overseer of our church. In those early days of the Church, Brother and Sister Lee often walked many miles to keep their appointments in the isolated churches. Many are living for God today as the result of the faithfulness of this couple.

After the passing of Brother Lee, this true Christian lady served for a number of years as a Sunday School teacher at the North Cleveland church. She spent much time in reading and praying before standing before her group on Sunday morning. God richly blessed her as a teacher.

Sister Lee is a very cheerful sufferer. Often her pains are so great that she dreads to see nighttime come, yet her trust is completely in God. Many times I have heard her say, "I want to trust God to the end, like my husband trusted Him." Those of you who have arthritis know what suffering this dear lady goes through. She likes for her friends to come in and see her and always requests that they pray for her. She thinks of life as the words of the song say, "God Holds the Future in His Hands." Those who know God, please pray for Sister Lee.

E. B. Culpepper

THE GOOD LORD wonderfully saved and sanctified and baptized me with the Holy Ghost more than 43 years ago. He gave me faith to trust him for the healing of my body, and I have never even so much as taken a pill since. I received evangelistic license to preach of this wonderful experience in the year 1913, and was ordained as a Bishop in God's great Church in the year 1915. I have had the privilege as well as the joy of seeing hundreds of happy souls filled with the Holy Ghost and many afflicted bodies healed by the great and mighty power of God. I have known what it is to have the angry mobs howling around me thirsting for my blood, but, thank the good Lord, he

has never yet let the Devil draw one drop of my blood.

Brother Conn, you asked me what I would do if I were to live my life over again. Well, for one thing, I would try to lift the standard of King Jesus just a little higher, if possible. I also, would profit by my past mistakes and never make the same mistakes twice. I would not yield so easily to discouragement.

I very well remember when I was in Rome, Georgia about 40 years ago. I closed my meeting and had to walk quite a distance to the depot to get the Royal Palm Train to south Georgia. Before I arrived at the depot, the train rolled between me and the depot; as it was a very long train, I did not think I had enough time to walk around the train. I breathed a silent and earnest prayer to the Lord asking Him not to let the train start, and I just went under the train pushing my suitcase ahead of me.

I will be 72 years old next April 18, and these precious truths of the good old Bible are just as precious to me now as they were 43 years ago.—E. B. Culpepper

H. N. Scoggins

IN THINKING OVER the subject of this article, I can not think of many places where I would have wished it to be different. If I could live life over, I can not think of anything I would rather be than a Church of God minister, and work for His cause.

I was converted in December of 1911, and was sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost in March of 1912. I began preaching in 1913 and have had thirty-four years of unbroken service. I joined the Church of God as a charter member in April or May of 1912 in what is now Mount Olive Church. When I joined the Church the membership of the entire organization was less than three thousand, so I have lived to see it increased one hundred times what it was then. I have served twenty years as state overseer in the states of Texas, West Virginia, Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri. I have pastored several different churches in four different states. I surely have enjoyed my work for the Lord, and am happy that He called me into His service.

My wife is due a big portion of credit for whatever measure of success I have had. We both had the Holy Ghost and were members of the Church of God when we were married, and she has been a real helpmeet—always ready to go anywhere, and to do her part.

The greatest regret I have is that I did not get in as many years as I wanted to, and I still have a desire to work for the Lord. The Lord has proved Himself to us, so let us prove ourselves to Him by being true to the doctrines of the Bible—not adding to, or taking



Culpespper



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Fritz



Simmons

from them. As a great preacher said one time, "Preach what is recorded in the Scriptures, but what we do not find recorded there, let us not search after. Speak what is written, and the strife will be abandoned."—H. N. Scoggins

Mrs. Alda B. Harrison

I THANK THE LORD for this grand and glorious privilege of giving this testimony to my friends. I can never remember of one time when I was tempted to turn from this glorious way, or give up living for God. I have had many trials and temptations along the way, but they only spurred me on and renewed my determination to press on. One night in my home in Sacramento, California, I was sitting alone in my room reading a splendid article from *Triumphs of Faith*, a magazine edited by Carrie Judd Montgomery, that wonderful saint of God who was raised from her sick bed at 20 years of age when all hope was gone. In thanksgiving to God she gave her life to the ministry of healing.

The article I was reading was blessing my soul. I closed my book, leaned my head back against the back of my rocker and was meditating. All at once the Holy Spirit brought me face to face with a dark, dense forest all undergrown with briars, thorns and every imaginable thing to keep one from going through. I said, "Lord, what does this mean?" Then He spoke to me by His still small voice and said, "Will you go through this for me?" I quickly answered, "Yes, Lord, I will," not realizing what it meant but with a surrendered heart, willing to face whatever it might be. In a few days I knew what it meant, for I had one of the hardest tests of my life to go through. However, I came out on the other side victorious. One thing I saw in this vision—as I faced this forest, the Lord let me look back and I saw nothing but barren fields which looked like our big sage grass fields that have been burned. Oh, the barrenness of those fields. If I had turned back then, my life would have been as barren as those fields, and the souls I have helped along the way would have been lost.

Dear readers, do your lives seem barren? If they do examine yourselves and see if you have said "yes" to God. It takes an everlasting "yes," a complete laying of yourselves on the altar, willingness to suffer, if needs be, to make fruit-bearing Christians. If you have a desire to do something for God, the way up is down—down at the foot of the cross where Jesus can fix you up and use you for His glory.

I have said many times that when I go to heaven I think I will ask my Lord if I can come back and live

another life for Him. Yes, I'd like to do that but I imagine it is so beautiful over there that I will want to stay. However, I'd like to live another life for Him.—Alda B. Harrison

W. M. Rumler

ON THE SIXTH OF MAY in 1911, I was gloriously saved in the little town of Cannon, Georgia and was wonderfully sanctified by the precious blood of the Son of God. On the thirteenth day of March in 1912, God gloriously and wonderfully filled me with the blessed and sweet Holy Ghost and fire at Monroe, Georgia.

He called me to preach the gospel of the Cross of Calvary. I ran from Him for about one year, but finally after I had suffered almost to death's door. I decided I had better obey the dear Lord. I started to obey in the early part of 1913, and I have never stopped yet. My journey has not always been on pleasant and flowery beds of ease. God has delivered me from everything in many persecutions and trials that we went through. The joy and the peace and glory and power of God far surpass all the trials and hardships that we have gone through. I traveled and preached in fourteen states and have seen many precious souls pray through to old-time salvation. Glory! Glory!

After I have toiled and labored and preached this glorious gospel of the Son of God, for these many years I would not exchange places with anyone for the whole world. Bless His sweet and precious and holy name! If it were God's will I would be so happy to travel over the same road that I have come over. I can look back and see where I could make lots of changes. I would be able to do much more than I have done. Possibly, I could have prayed and fasted and wept more. Yet, as I look back, I would not take anything for my journey now.

As I am nearing the last miles they seem to be sweeter every day, and I still have that burning zeal and passion for lost souls. Well, I am looking for His soon returning. Glory! Glory! I do not believe that it will be long now. Praise His sweet name.—W. M. Rumler

Alonzo Gann

IF I COULD LIVE LIFE OVER, I certainly would make changes in my early life. I would improve my life by diligent study for an education because I believe this to be all-important to the advancement of deeper spirituality. In my early life, until the age of 34, I did not know very much about God. At that age, I found God and received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost;

(Continued on page 13)

Trailblazers

A tribute to our aged ministers

By the Editor

THESE ARE those who have fought the good fight and have accepted super-annuation. For the most part, but not entirely, they have retired from the field of battle. The *Evangelist* regrets that there is not sufficient space to write more about each of these soldiers of the cross. A book could be written about the labors and achievements of each of them. They are worthy of our respect and honor for they have fought a good fight.

One thing that should be mentioned is the eagerness of the men listed here to include their wives in any recognition given them. They carefully have pointed out to the editor the labors of their companions. Almost always husband and wife stood side by side in the labor of the Lord. To our aged ministers and their wives we pay our deepest respects and offer our sincere thanks for the heritage they have given us.

G. E. ANTHONY, 72, preached for approximately 30 yrs., 1914-1944, in Tex., N. Mex., and Calif. He served as district pastor during part of this time. He is now in fair health and does some evangelistic work. He resides at 809 Ave. C, Lubbock, Tex.

FLORA E. (GOLDEN) BALL, 67, preached for 24 yrs., principally in Miss., Tenn., and S. C. Her husband assisted her in her work. She was matron at the Home for Children about 8 yrs. Her health is not very good now, but she does some sewing in her home. She lives at 981 Montgomery Ave., Cleveland, Tenn.

JOHN B. BANEY, 71, preached about 30 yrs., 1919-1949, in Tenn., Calif., and Okla. He was overseer of Kansas and also worked considerably with the orphans. He is in good health at present and resides at 2517 N. Kelleet, Springfield, Mo.

T. F. BLACKWELL, 67, was an active minister for 28 yrs., 1920-1949. He pastored churches in Mo., Ill., W. Va., and N. C., was state youth director of W. Va. and Tenn., and superintendent of the baby division of the Home for Children. His present health is good and he lives at 1823 Hardy Street, Chattanooga, Tenn.

EZRA BOWEN, 62, preached for 29 yrs., 1917-1946. He worked in W. Va., Ohio, Ky., Ind., and Fla. He served as district pastor. He is now recovering from T. B. and does considerable preaching. His address is Box 18, Rossmore, W. Va.

I. H. BRABSON, 74, had 30 yrs. of active ministry, 1914-1943, mostly in Tenn. and Va. He was overseer of Va. for 2 yrs. His health is fair but he does have a kidney affliction. He lives at Spring City, Tenn.

J. M. BRADLEY, 74, preached about 28 yrs., 1917-1945, in Fla. His health at present is very poor, but he preaches occasionally. He lives at 822 N. Ohio Ave., Lakeview, Fla.

H. N. BRIDGES, 67, has been active in the ministry for about 28 yrs. He pastored in Tex. where he served as district pastor and member of the state council. He evangelized in Tex., N. Mex., and Ariz. He retired in September, 1935, and is now evangelizing part-time.

FLORIDA BROWN, 64, preached in La., Maine and Md. for 21 yrs., 1922-1943. She did a great deal of evangelistic work during this period. At present she is in reasonably good health. Her address is 2112 Fairleigh St., Chattanooga, Tenn.

BAKTER BRYANT, 71, preached in Tenn. and Ky. about 19 yrs., 1927-1946. Following a nervous breakdown in 1946, his health is still poor. And he and his wife covet the prayers of all our readers. He now resides at 303 12th St., Lafayette, Tenn.

WILLIS CARDEN, 68, was an active minister for 39 yrs., 1914-1953. He was an evangelist for 7 yrs. and pastored in Ky. 32 yrs. He has had two heart attacks and now has asthma. He requests prayer. His residence is at 1714 D. S. 13th St., Louisville, Ky.

RALPH COULTER, 64, was active in the ministry 36 years, 1914-1950. He did some evangelistic work but principally pastored in Tenn. and Ala. He also served as district pastor. At the present time he is farming in Trenton, Ga. He is in good health with the exception of his vocal organs.

C. P. CASHATT, 75, was active in the ministry 22 yrs., 1932-1954, in S. C. Two years were in evangelistic work, and the remainder in pastoral work. His health is now fair and he is available for revivals. He lives at 1608 Leesburg Road, Columbia, S. C.

W. E. CRIDER, 71, was in the ministry 26 yrs., all in Ala. He served as district pastor 9 yrs. He is in fair health and at present does considerable preaching as a supply pastor. He resides at 14 E. Lane, Bessemer, Ala.

E. B. CULPEPPER, 72, was an active minister for almost 31 yrs., 1913-1944. He worked principally in Ga. and Fla. but was overseer of Miss. for almost 5 yrs. His health is good except for a foot ailment. His address is 1838 Watkins St., Augusta, Ga.

C. H. DEANS, 61, has had 37 yrs. in the ministry, 1918 to the present. He has served 4 yrs. as an evangelist and the remainder as a pastor in N. C. At present he pastors a small church in Benson, N. C. His present address is Rt. 2, Middlesex, N. C.

WHIT DENSON, 66, spent 23 yrs. as a pastor and 10 yrs. as an evangelist. He worked in Fla., Ky., Ala., and Ark. He was best known for his music ministry. He was associate music editor 6 yrs., served on the Editorial and Publications Board 6 yrs., taught over 200 singing schools, and was a choir director in Ohio. Brother Denson is now recovering from a severe coronary thrombosis. He would like all his many friends to write him care of Church of God Campground, Bessemer, Ala.

JAMES DIXON, 63, was active in the ministry for 32 yrs., all in Ky. He did both evangelistic and pastoral work. He is in very poor health at present but operates a small store and pastors a small church. His address is Box 26, Vico, Ky.

J. L. DORMAN, 66, was an active minister for 23 yrs., 1923-1946. He pastored churches in Fla., N. C., and Ark. He was state overseer of Va., Miss., and Okla. His health is fair and his address is Box 473, Apopka, Fla.

T. P. DOUGLAS, 66, preached about 22 yrs., 1931-1954, in Fla., Va., and Ky. Most of his work was pastoral. His hearing and sight are now bad, but he still teaches a S. S. class and preaches occasionally. His address is Rt. 1, Box 163, Wimauma, Fla.

B. C. ERWIN, 72, preached in the Church of God 23 yrs., 1922-1947, all in La. He now lives on Louisiana Rd., Covington, La.

JAMES E. FAILE, 74, preached 20 yrs., 1927-1947, in S. C. He is doing no work at present. His address is 116 W. 1st St., Kershaw, S. C.

P. F. FRITZ, 83, preached 34 yrs., 1912-1946, in Fla., Ga., Ala., Miss., Tenn., Ky., Va., and Ill. He was a member of the first Board of Education, 1926-1936. His present health is good and he is an instructor of S. S. teachers. His home is in Carrier Mills, Ill., but he is spending this winter in Wimauma, Fla.

R. M. GALLUPS, 77, was active in the ministry 36 yrs., 1912-1948. He evangelized and pastored in Ala. He was also a district pastor. He now lives at 2101 Pike Road, Ensley, Ala. He preaches occasionally but is in bad health, following a nervous breakdown in 1949.

ALONZA GANN, 77, spent 27 yrs. in the active ministry, 1914-1941, during which time he preached in Ala., Ga., and Tenn. He was state overseer of Tenn., a member of the Supreme Council, Board of Education, General Executive Committee, Council of Seventy, and the Supreme Judges Court of Justice. He states that he is now "a feeble old man" but he does teach a S. S. class. He resides on Rt. 1, Hixson, Tenn.

NANCY GENTRY, 80, preached for 21 yrs. in Tenn. She is very feeble now and unable to do her own housework. She desires the prayers of all readers. Her address is Sale Creek, Tenn.

J. L. GOINS, 68, has spent 43 yrs. in the active ministry, 1912-1955. He pastored in Ky., Ill., and Tenn. He was overseer of Ind., Ill., Iowa, Neb., W. Va., and Ohio. He was a member of the Missions Board, the Supreme Council, and the Council of Seventy. At present he is a missionary to Bermuda.

CHARLIE GOSSETT, 78, preached 20 yrs., 1918-1938, principally as an evangelist. He did some pastoral work in Ark. and Ala. His health is bad and he is not working at present. His address is 9404 West Boulevard, Birmingham, Ala.

JAMES CLYDE GREEN, 63, has had 23 yrs. of active ministry beginning in 1932. Most of his work has been in S. C. He is still active in the evangelistic work, having retired from pastoring because of heart trouble. His address is 6 Jayne St., Wailhalla, S. C.

JAMES A. HALL, 64, preached 30 yrs., 1925-1955, in Tex., N. Mex., and Okla. At the present time he pastors a small church in Monahans, Texas. His address there is Box 504.

J. C. HANKS, 72, preached 28 yrs., 1915-1943, in Va. and W. Va. Most of his work was evangelistic but he did pastor a few churches. He joined the Church when Va. had only 12 Church of God members. His health is fair and he does some preaching. His address is Woodlawn, Va.

H. O. HARRIS, 66, was active in the ministry 36 yrs., 1912-1950. He did some evangelistic work and pastored in Ky., Pa., Md., and Ga. He was overseer of Ill. and Iowa. He still works some in his local church. His address is Rt. 1, Box 44, Middleboro, Ky.

ALDA B. HARRISON, 78, has had an active ministry for 43 yrs., 1912 to the present. Her work was principally that of personal evangelism and work among young people. She founded and edited *The Lighted Pathway* from 1929 to 1948. She is in good health for her age and is still very active. She conducts two pages in *The Lighted Pathway* and leads a group of ministers' wives in Christian training at Lee College. She resides on Montgomery Ave., Cleveland, Tenn.

J. L. HATHCOCK, 65, preached for 25 yrs., 1929-1954, 10 of which were in evangelistic work. He pastored churches in N. C., Ohio, and Va. and served as district pastor. He is now retired and lives at 85 State St., West Asheville, N. C.

J. W. HEATON, 66, preached for 32 yrs., 1920-1952, in Ga., S. C. and Va. for 15 yrs. he did revival work, with the remaining yrs. in pastoral work. He was a district pastor for 18 yrs. He is still in good health and does considerable preaching on weekends. His address is 612 C. E. Franklin St., Hartwell, Ga.

E. D. HOPKINS, 84, has been an active minister for 42 yrs., 1913 to the present time. He worked principally in Va. and N. C. Much of his work was as district pastor. At the present time he is farming at his home in Cullowhee, N. C. He still helps in revivals and prayer meetings and is helping to build a church building.

J. H. INGRAM, 62, preached for 33 yrs., 1921-1954, about 5 of which were in evangelistic work. He pastored in Cincinnati and Los Angeles. He was overseer of Ariz. and

Calif., but most of his work was in the cause of foreign missions. He was the first foreign missions field representative and contact man. It was through his efforts that the Church of God was established in much of South America, the Caribbean countries, Asia, and the Middle East. His travels have taken him into about 34 countries of the world, and his most recent journey abroad was after his retirement in 1954. He is still vigorous and active in the work of the Lord. His address is 4271 Cortland St., Lynwood, Calif.

R. F. JOHNSON, 69, has been an active preacher almost 40 yrs. His pastoral work was in Fla. and Tex. He was overseer of Tex., Fla., Ga., S. C. and N. C. He was Assistant General Overseer for 14 yrs., 1929-1933, 1934-1944, and Editor and Publisher 1 yr., 1931-1932. He has served on the Supreme Council, the Executive Committee, the Missions Board, Board of Education, Editorial and Publications Board, Council of Seventy and Supreme Judges Court of Justice. He has always been an ardent evangelist regardless of his position. He is still very active, preaching in prayer conferences, conventions, camp meetings, etc. He attends two to five services weekly and is in good health. His address is 196 E 13th St., Hialeah, Fla.

LULA L. JONES, 74, preached 35 yrs., 1910-1945. Most of her work was evangelistic, particularly, establishing new churches. She did some pastoral work in N. C. She still conducts revivals occasionally and is in good health. She resides at 1808 Idell St., Tampa 4, Fla.

RUTH E. JUSTIN, preached 25 yrs., 1931 to the present time. Most of her work has been in Mich., Maine, Mass., and Penna. She was state secretary-treasurer of Mich. Except for her voice, she is still in good health and conducts revivals whenever possible. She lives at Edgewood Grove, Somerset, Pa.

GROVER P. LEDFORD, 64, has been in the ministry 35 yrs., 1920 to the present time. His work has been as pastor and district pastor, mostly in N. C. and Tenn. He was head bookkeeper at the Publishing House for years and has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1939. He is now serving as pastor at the Harris Chapel Church in Cherokee County, N. C. He is also a deputy trustee and bookkeeper in the Trustee's Office in Bradley County, Tenn. His address is care of Bradley County Trustee's Office, Cleveland, Tenn.

ANNIE M. LINDSAY, 60, was an active minister 37 yrs. She did much evangelistic work and pastored small churches in Tenn. and N. C. She states that she is in poor health but still evangelizes when she is able. She requests the prayers of our readers. Her address is 16 Black Ave., Baltimore, N. C.

CHARLES F. LOCKARD, 63, was active in the ministry 35 yrs., 1918-1953. He did evangelistic and pastoral work in Ky. He also served as state treasurer, state youth director, district pastor, and on the state missions board. He now resides at 6102 S. 3rd St., Louisville, Ky.

T. J. LOONEY, 67, has had 38 yrs. of active ministry, 1917 to the present. He has done some evangelistic work, but has principally pastored in Ga., N. C., Maine, Mass., Del., and Md. He is still in good health and pastors churches in Whittier, N. C.

W. D. LOWDER, 64, was active in the ministry 30 yrs., 1924-1954, most of which was spent pastoring in N. C. He was an evangelist for 9 yrs. He still preaches occasionally, but is in poor health. His address is 421 Broome St., Albemarle, N. C.

R. R. MARTIN, 72, was active in the ministry 26 yrs., 1920-1946. While he did some evangelistic work, most of his ministry was pastoring churches in Ark. He also served as district pastor. He informs me that he has an inward cancer and is fully trusting God for his healing. He desires the prayers of all who read this. He is now living at Rt. 4, Box 539, North Little Rock, Ark.

EDNA MCKINNEY, 66, preached 28 yrs., 1927-1954, in Md., Ohio, W. Va., Pa., Ore., Idaho. Her work was principally that of establishing new churches in new fields. She and her husband, R. H. McKinney, have worked together through the years. They have just established a new work in Tucson, Ariz. and are very active even though not in good health. Their address is 6000 East 20th St., Tucson, Ariz.

Y. E. McNEAR, 60, preached 29 yrs., 1926-1955, in Ga., Texas, and Fla. His present address is 5204 9th St., Tampa, Fla.

T. J. MEADE, 68, had an active ministry of 30 yrs., 1921-1951. Most of his work was in W. Va., Fla., Calif., Tenn., and Ky. His

health is not good so he is doing no regular work now. His address is Box 715, Mt. Dora, Fla.

W. J. MILLIGAN, 63, was very active in the ministry for 34 yrs., 1920-1954. His pastoral work was done in Ill., Mo., and Tenn. He was overseer of Kans., Mo., Md., Del., D. C., Ky. He served on the Orphanage Board and board of General Trustees. He still does some evangelistic work. He resides at 14 E. Dayton St., Harrisburg, Ill.

D. R. MORELAND, 74, has been in the ministry 51 yrs., 1904 to the present time. He has done a great deal of evangelistic work and has pastored in W. Va. and Penn. He was overseer of Mo., Kans., and N. C. His health is still excellent and he is in evangelistic work steadily. His residence is at Edgewood Grove, Somerset, Penn.

HELEN L. MORROW, 62, preached for 28 yrs., 1925-1953, in general evangelistic work. She pastored briefly in Ohio, but is best known for her evangelistic work. She states that she is now sick and almost blind with cataracts on her eyes and urges that all readers pray for her. Her address is P. O. Box 262, Henrico, Va.

J. A. MUNCY, 72, spent 23 yrs. in the ministry, 1919-1952. He evangelized and pastored in Ky., Pa., Ill., Tenn., and Ohio. He was overseer of Md. and Del. He was Orphanage Superintendent for 4 yrs., 1944-1948. He also served on the Board of Education and Council of Seventy, when it existed. His present address is 5072 Millikin Rd., Hamilton, Ohio.

J. U. NABORS, 80, preached 23 yrs., 1922-1945, in Miss. His health is not very good, so he is doing no work at present. His address is P. O. Box 162, Houston, Miss.

ETTA NEWMAN, 79, preached approximately 35 yrs., 1912-1933 in Ala., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., and Tenn. She is badly crippled at present and doing no work. Her address is Rt. 2, Caledonia, Miss.

D. G. PHILLIPS, 70, preached 29 yrs., 1925-1954, in Ohio, Md., and Mich. He was overseer of Md., Del., Mich., Ohio, and Central Canada. He is still very active as a supply pastor, evangelist, and is popular as a conductor of "Know-Your-Church Week" in local churches. His address is 1524 Blanchard Ave., Findlay, Ohio.

O. B. PRESLEY, 65, has had an active ministry of 21 yrs., 1934 to the present. All of his pastoral work has been done in Mo. He was district pastor for 10 yrs. He is now in fair health and is still active as a supply pastor. He resides at 913 Jean St., Springfield, Mo.

W. J. PRICHARD, 73, has preached 31 yrs., 1924 until the present. All the churches he has pastored have been in N. C. and Tenn. He is still pastoring full time, and is assistant district pastor. His address is 3012 1st Ave., S. W., Hickory, N. C.

C. H. PRINCE, 79, was active in the ministry 25 yrs., 1918 to 1943. All of his preaching was done in Tenn. and Ga. His present address is 435 N. W. Central Ave., Cleveland, Tenn.

G. C. PRINCE, 66, preached 26 yrs., 1925-1951. Most of his work was done in Fla., Ark., Miss., and the Hawaiian Islands where he worked for 14 months. At the present time he lives on his small farm in Pelham, Ga.

W. O. REMBERT, 92, preached 36 yrs., beginning 1918. About 20 of these yrs. were spent in evangelistic work. He also pastored in Ky. and Ohio. He served as overseer of Ohio, Ill., and Ind. While it existed, he was a member of the Council of Seventy. At present his health is very poor and he is confined to the bed most of the time. He requests the prayers of all our readers. He is much in need of prayer and encouragement. His present address is 129 Winn Ave., Winchester, Ky.

J. E. REVELS, 62, preached 24 yrs., 1929-1953. His ministry was confined to the state of Fla. He is very frail now and not able to do any work. His address is Rt. 2, Dade City, Fla.

T. A. RICHARD, 74, was active in the ministry 32 yrs., 1912-1945. He did quite a bit of evangelistic work and pastored churches in Tenn., Ala., and La. He was overseer of La. for 2 yrs. and a member of the Council of Seventy for 5 yrs. He now lives on Rt. 2, Oak St., Hixson, Tenn.

R. S. ROBINSON, 88, preached 28 yrs., 1910-1938, in Ala. and S. C. He was a district pastor for 25 yrs. and a member of the Council of Seventy for 8 yrs. His only present activity is working in his small garden.

He states that he is still an avid student of God's Word. His address is 1109 W. Francis Ave., Jacksonville, Ala.

W. M. RUMLER, 71, preached about 33 yrs., 1912-1946, as evangelist, pastor, and state overseer. He pastored in Ill. and Fla. and was overseer of W. Va. and Pa. He was also a member of the Council of Seventy. His health is very good and he states that he is doing more preaching now than he did when he was a pastor. His present address is 810 E. Hanna, Tampa, Fla.

H. N. SCOGGINS, 63, was in the active ministry 34 yrs., 1913-1947. He pastored in Tenn., Tex., and Ill. He was State Overseer of Tex., W. Va., Tenn., Ill., and Mo. He was a member of the Supreme Council for 5 yrs. At the present time he is disabled. His address is Box 103, Eldorado, Ill.

J. A. SELF, 77, began his ministry in 1913 and retired in 1931, about 39 yrs. He pastored churches in Fla. During this time and for 4 yrs. was Brother F. J. Lee's assistant there. He was a member of the Council of Seventy, the Supreme Judges Court of Justice, and on the Supreme Council for 9 yrs., 1924-1933. He was overseer of Fla. for a short time. The only work he does now is in his small garden. He is still preaching some and he teaches a S. S. class. His address is 713 Grand Central St., Clearwater, Fla.

JOHN SHARP, 68, preached about 35 yrs., 1918-1953, doing some evangelistic work and pastoring churches in Tex., Ind., Ill., N. Mex., Ariz., Calif., Mont., and Wash. He was overseer of Mont., Wyo., and Western Canada. He still challenges some even though his health is not very good. He requests prayer for himself and his wife. They reside at 124 El Paso Ave., Modesto, Calif.

W. F. SHARPE, 63, preached 29 yrs., 1916-1953, in Tenn., Miss., and La. He was also district pastor. He is doing no work at present because of his poor health. He now lives in Magee, Miss.

E. E. SIMMONS, 84, preached 27 yrs., 1907-1934, in evangelistic work and pastoring churches in Fla. He was overseer of La. for 3 yrs. and our earliest missionary to Jamaica. He still does occasional preaching but is not able to do a great deal. He lives in Wimauma, Fla.

E. L. SIMMONS, 62, preached nearly 42 yrs., 1913-1954, as evangelist, pastor, state overseer, missionary, and general official. He pastored in Fla., Mich., N. C., and Tenn. He was overseer of W. Va., Ill., Colo., Utah, Ga., Fla., and Tenn. and a missionary to the Bahama Islands. He was Editor and Publisher for 3 yrs., 1929-1942, Assistant General Overseer 1 yr., 1944-1945, President of Lee College 3 yrs., 1945-1948. He served on the General Executive Committee, the Supreme Council, the first Missions Board, the Orphanage Board, and the Council of Seventy. Brother Simmons is a current member of the Editorial and Publications Board, and states that he is now caring for his invalid father. He resides in Wimauma, Fla.

H. B. SIMMONS, 86, was active in the ministry about 26 yrs., 1909-1935. He evangelized and pastored in Fla., Ill., La., Ga. and Tenn. He was overseer of S. C., La., and Va. He is in very bad health and has been confined to the bed for more than 6 months. He lives in Wimauma, Fla. The three Simmons brethren are charter members of the Church of God in Fla.

W. W. SMETHERS, 67, preached 30 yrs., 1921-1951, in Tex. and N. Mex. He was a district pastor 14 yrs. He is not able to do any work now because of heart trouble and requests that all readers pray for him. His address is Box 16, Weatherford, Texas.

STARLING SMITH, 70, began preaching in 1908 and preached until 1934. His work was principally in Ky. and Tenn. as pastor. He also served as district pastor and was a member of the Council of Seventy. At present he suffers from neuritis and is trusting God to heal him. His present ministry is confined to preaching funerals, teaching a S. S. class, and supplying as pastor. He resides at 601 Mill St., Williamsburg, Ky.

W. M. STALLINGS, 63, was in the active ministry 42 yrs., during which time he pastored, established new churches, served as district pastor and on state boards. He was overseer of N. C. and Miss. The churches he pastored were in N. C. and Tenn. He is in good health and still active in the evangelistic work. His address is Box 1332, Kannapolis, N. C.

JOEL STAMPER, 68, has been preaching 33 yrs. as an evangelist and pastor. His work has been in Ohio and Okla. He served as district pastor. His health is good so he is

In Memoriam

active now in evangelistic work. He states that he will go anywhere in any state that he is desired for a meeting. His address is 420 S. E. 4th St., Pryor, Okla.

C. H. STANDIFER, 73, has had 41 active years, 1913-1954, in the ministry. Most of this has been as pastor in Ky., Ind., Ill., and Mich. He has been district pastor and overseer of Ind. and Mich. He is still busily engaged in evangelistic work. His address is Box 284, Shelburn, Ind.

FRANK H. SWAGGERTY, 80, has been in the ministry 24 yrs. He did some evangelistic work and pastored churches in Ga. and Tenn. He was a district pastor. His bad health prevents him from doing any work now. He resides at 1717 S. Hawthorne St., Chattanooga, Tenn.

O. W. THOMAS, 63, had more than 35 yrs. in the active ministry, 1915-1952. Most of his work was pastor and district pastor. He served churches in W. Va., Tenn., and Fla. He served on various state boards and committees. His present work is restricted to his local church, but he does preach occasionally. His address is 6914 N. Brevard, Tampa 4, Fla.

L. L. TURNER, 78, was in the ministry 29 yrs., 1915-1944. He pastored churches in Tenn., Ohio, and Mich. He served as district pastor, a member of the Council of Seventy, and on various state boards. He is not doing any work at present because of a bad heart condition. He resides on Rt. 2, Elison, Tenn.

J. S. WALKER, 67, preached 33 yrs., 1915-1948, as evangelist, pastor, and district pastor in Ga. and Tenn. He is able to do only a little farm work at present but does preach occasionally. He lives in Talbott, Tenn.

MANNIE WALKER, 84, preached about 26 yrs., 1909-1935, as an evangelist in Fla. and N. Dak. She has been an invalid for several years now and is not able to do any work. Her address is 1811 Hicks St., Augusta, Ga.

J. B. WEEKS, 65, was active in the ministry in Ga. for approximately 35 yrs. He also served as district pastor. He is in bad health now and resides on Rt. 2, Ellijay, Ga.

MYRTLE WHITEHEAD, 68, was in the ministry 39 yrs. during which she did evangelistic work almost altogether. She did pastor churches in S. C. and Ga. Her evangelistic work was in Ga., Fla., S. C., N. C., Tenn., Ala. and W. Va. She still is doing quite a bit of evangelistic work and is in good health. Her home is at 308 Vickery St., Hartwell, Ga.

S. J. WHITENER, 66, has been in the ministry for 31 yrs., 1924 to the present. He did some evangelistic work and pastored churches in Fla. He has served as district pastor and on various state boards. He is still pastoring a small church. His address is Box 183, Newberry, Fla.

MORRIS WIGGINS, 59, has had 22 yrs. in the ministry during which time he pastored in Fla., N. C., Ala., and Greg. He has a back affliction which prevents him from working at present. His address is 1656 W. Duval St., Lake City, Fla.

T. C. WIGGINS, 65, preached 26 yrs., 1921-1946, as pastor in N. C. He also served as district pastor. A bad heart ailment prevents him from working at present. His address is Box 293, Dallas, N. C.

W. S. WILEMON, 66, has preached steadily since 1917, serving principally as pastor in Fla., Tenn., and Ala. He was overseer of Ala. and has been district pastor. At present he is substitute pastor of a small church and does other preaching at funerals, in revivals, etc. He states that God has completely healed him of a serious affliction and it is easier for him to preach now than it has ever been before. He requests the prayers of our readers. He lives on Rt. 4, Oneonta, Ala.

A. R. WILLINGHAM, 59, was active in the ministry 28 years, 1922-1949. His ministry was both evangelistic and pastoral; all his pastoral work was in Ark. He served as district pastor and on various state boards. He now lives at 621 North 6th Street in Rochelle, Ill. where he teaches a Sunday School class. His health is poor and he desires prayer for his healing.

S. J. WOOD, 70, was active in the ministry 26 years, 1919-1945. He served as pastor in Tex., Okla., Kans., Ark., N. Mex., Colo., and Utah. He was on the Supreme Council for 9 yrs., 1929-1933, 1934-1939. He also served on the Council of Seventy and the Supreme Judges Court of Justice while it existed. Brother Wood now resides in Oklahoma City at 230 S.E. 44th Street and does occasional preaching. His health is fairly good but he has a serious heart ailment.

Ministers Who Have Died Since the Last Assembly, August, 1954

| Name | State | Rank | Minister |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| S. C. Bell | Tennessee | Licensed | Minister |
| C. G. Bellah | Washington | Licensed | Minister |
| W. H. Black | Georgia | Ordained | Minister |
| Lowell Cantrell | Massachusetts | Exhorter | |
| J. E. D. Carpenter | North Carolina | Exhorter | |
| J. P. Cobb | North Carolina | Exhorter | |
| George H. Culmer (colored) | Florida | Licensed | Minister |
| J. J. Culppepper | Georgia | Licensed | Minister |
| J. H. Curry (colored) | Florida | Ordained | Minister |
| Eva Mae Drake | California | Exhorter | |
| Grant Dunning | Indiana | Licensed | Minister |
| B. H. Enix | Kentucky | Ordained | Minister |
| F. M. Fitzgerald | Louisiana | Ordained | Minister |
| Mary Lou Grant | Georgia | Exhorter | |
| Sam Halcomb | Kentucky | Ordained | Minister |
| S. W. Hamilton | Texas | Licensed | Minister |
| Joseph Imperio | West Virginia | Exhorter | |
| Enoch Jamison | North Carolina | Licensed | Minister |
| A. L. Jenkins | Illinois | Ordained | Minister |
| Martin Johnson | Barbados | Licensed | Minister |
| J. C. Kimbrough | Mississippi | Licensed | Minister |
| Joseph Lane | Georgia | Licensed | Minister |
| J. C. Mauldin | Georgia | Ordained | Minister |
| E. L. Moore | Florida | Ordained | Minister |
| B. J. Morgan | Mississippi | Licensed | Minister |
| Myrtle Mushagan | California | Exhorter | |
| James A. Rafferty | Illinois | Ordained | Minister |
| I. N. Rich | Georgia | Ordained | Minister |
| L. F. Rodgers | Florida | Ordained | Minister |
| William Rogers | South Carolina | Ordained | Minister |
| Dianna Rolle | Bahama Islands | Exhorter | |
| Aubrey L. Smith | Florida | Exhorter | |
| Erskine Smith (colored) | Florida | Licensed | Minister |
| J. L. Smith | North Carolina | Licensed | Minister |
| Thomas T. Smith | Bahama Islands | Exhorter | |
| J. M. Stone | Georgia | Licensed | Minister |
| Isaac Sumpter | Missouri | Licensed | Minister |
| R. H. Walker | North Carolina | Ordained | Minister |
| W. B. Webb | Kentucky | Ordained | Minister |
| A. J. Whitaker | Ohio | Licensed | Minister |
| J. J. Williams | Georgia | Ordained | Minister |
| E. W. Wilson | Alabama | Ordained | Minister |

TOWERING OVER THE WRECKS OF TIME



IF I COULD LIVE LIFE OVER

(Continued from page 9)

and from that time, for 43 years, I have followed Him fervently and uncompromisingly. With the small capacity I have, I do not see where I could have accomplished more for His Church.

It has not been all roses for me, but amidst our heart-aches, tears, and suffering God has meant everything to me. He has always come to my rescue when needed. He also has given me new life in this world and eternal life in the world to come. If I could live life over I would continue to "blaze the trail."

I am handicapped with age now but for 77 years God has watched over me and for 43 of those years God has been my Healer, Saviour, and All in All. I am looking for His coming. When our pilgrimage is ended here, we are expecting Him to take us home. I can almost hear the angels singing, "Come home, it is supper time." If I could live life over, it would all be spent for the promotion of God's Church. It is everything to me.—Alonzo Gann

P. F. Fritz

I WAS SAVED in 1900, and it brought peace to my soul; but some time after, say four years, I realized things were not going as well as they had at first; but I did not know what it was. From a consecrated person, I learned I needed to be sanctified as a second work of grace. I needed the eradication of the old nature in my heart which was done in 1907.

After a while there was a hunger in my heart for something more. About this time we learned about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost with speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. I received this on November 10, 1908. Since that time, my life has been satisfied as to these experiences; since that time, I have had God as my Saviour and Healer when I have become sick. God has never let me down and has supplied my needs and stood by me in every trial.

In 1912, I joined the Church of God. Before I joined the Church I did not know the benefits of an organized

church. The Church has meant much to me, and it has meant much to have good men watching over my soul. It has been a bulwark to me through all of these forty-three years. If the ministry will stay consecrated, there is a great work to be done to the uttermost parts of the world.

If I had my life to live over:

1. I would get saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost while young in years.
2. I would give more time for prayer.
3. I would give more time in reading God's Word.
4. I would consecrate my life more fully to the will of God.
5. I would get more education and prepare better for life.
6. I would go to the Church of God Bible School until I graduated.

—P. F. Fritz

E. E. Simmons

WHAT LIVING FOR GOD and working for Him has meant to me: First, peace to my soul and faith to trust God for my healing and my family's healing. Then, the joy of seeing souls saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, added to the Church of God, and living for Him.

What I would like to do if I could live my life over: I would endeavor to obey Paul's command to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself, and them that hear thee," 1 Timothy 4:12-16. I believe the Bible to be God's road map to heaven.—E. E. Simmons



PIEDMONT, Ala.—On November 13, the last day of our six weeks' Sunday School contest, we broke the all-time attendance record of our Sunday School with 245 present. Our people surely did work hard in the contest, and the Lord wondrously blessed us.

Pictured above is part of the Sunday School and the special guests present the day the record was broken. Pictured on the front row (left to right) are Clyne W. Buxton, pastor; J. D. Bruce, Sunday School Superintendent; the editor of the local newspaper, the

police chief; two of the local policemen, the mayor; and four of the city councilmen. God is doing great things for us, for we are now in the midst of a good revival; and at this writing, several have been saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost.—Clyne W. Buxton, Pastor.

(Continued from page 3)

have brought the torch of faith to us, and it is given to us in faith that we will not allow the flame to die. How can we betray so great a confidence when they have led so many thousands of souls—including our own—to Christ? Ours is the greater responsibility for we have so much that they did not have: social understanding, ministerial training, financial support, influential numbers, Pentecostal precedence, and the witness of our forebears. They are dependent on us to continue what they have begun. As one wrote me: "I am very grateful for the younger ministers of the Church of God, and feel that with their education and dedicated lives the work that was begun under hard circumstances and adverse conditions will continue to prosper until Jesus comes."

What a challenge this is!

The Pentecostal frontier still exists. Many are still suffering, sacrificing and laboring all over the world to extend the kingdom of God and cause men to hear the complete gospel of the Scriptures. New chapters are being written even now. Pioneers still live, for the task is only begun. Who knows, in days to come, if Christ should tarry, perhaps the pioneers of our day will equal the heroism of the past.



THE CHURCH: ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

(Continued from page 4)

However, the present-day and future workers have the same resources for overcoming difficulties and for making their efforts count for God and right as the pioneers had. Since Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, His gospel is the same yesterday, today, and forever; the Holy Ghost's powers and authority are the same; therefore, the present and future influence, usefulness, and success of the Church should be equally as great or greater than in former years. It will be so, if present-day and future leadership and laity shall scripturally consecrate their lives, their time, and their substance and draw liberally on their God-given resources, constantly practice what they believe, and keep their lives and living in harmony with the gospel they preach and teach.

Full-gospel preaching, teaching, living, and service has been and will continue to be our answer to our Lord's call and to humanity's problems.



THE CHURCH: ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

(Continued from page 5)

get a place to worship. By getting what volunteer help we could in the city and taking a carload quite often from the Crane Eater church, we were worshipping in what was then considered a nice frame church before the General Assembly that fall.

How Different Now

When I think back of our move to the Calhoun area, as well as previous moves and some afterwards, I compare them with the "pains" I have taken in recent years, as state overseer, in seeing that everything is in readiness for new pastors moving in. And I think of how everything

was ready for us when we moved to Burlington (Knoxville, Tennessee) to pastor, with the parsonage completely furnished and a big sign hanging on the living room wall (lest we should come in when they were not present) "WELCOME TO BURLINGTON BROTHER AND SISTER CROSS, The young people, Burlington Church of God". It is quite a contrast to what we had back in the early days. It is thrilling to me to think that the minister and his family that moves to a new pastorate in the Church of God no longer has to collect furniture and nail it together before he has a place to live.

If our ministers continue to hold up the standard of Christ and keep their consecration and the Lord tarries another thirty-five years, we should have the Church of God firmly planted in every free nation on earth with churches within easy reach of the people in every section of every city and town.

Young Ministers, God bless you. You will have your problems—some that we never had—but with your better training and educational advantages, and the advantage of already having the Church recognized as an established and respected organization, you have a great opportunity. Of course, you are aware of the fact that every opportunity carries with it a corresponding responsibility. I am so happy to see a host of you, who are anointed of the Lord and filled with His Spirit, consecrated to His cause and assuming the responsibilities of the Church with that determination to put your all into the advancement of the cause of Christ. I have the utmost confidence that you will carry on successfully for Him until He comes.

A more complete record of the work in the pioneer days will be found in my book "In the Good (?) Ole Days" for sale by the Church of God Publishing House or direct from the writer for 50c.



OUR HERITAGE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO US TODAY

(Continued from page 6)

Evangelistic Emphasis

The spirit of evangelism prevailed. Every convert was eager to witness to others about his experience and to bring them into a knowledge of the way. Revival fires burned brightly. Churches were established which stand today as memorials to the sacrificial efforts of spirit-filled anointed men of God who put the kingdom of God first in their lives. They held great convictions and high ideals. Their lives were given over for one purpose—the salvation of souls. They were dedicated to the will of God and thought little of their personal sacrifices. We do well to honor them and hold them as our examples. Their devoted lives challenge us to hold fast those good things committed unto us. We are entrusted with a sacred task. Even as the great Apostle charged Timothy, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ to "preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine," we are charged with responsibility of keeping trust with our great heritage.

These things which I have mentioned and many more, too numerous to mention, compose our sacred heritage. They become to us a great stockpile of spiritual resources from which we constantly obtain strength, courage, and guidance.—W. P. Stallings

SOME PIONEERS I HAVE KNOWN

(Continued from page 7)

gospel, and served as overseer of Ohio for seventeen years. I can recall no other one serving in one state for quite so long.

Far to the southwest was R. M. Singleton who worked in California, Colorado, and Arizona. Being the only man to supervise three great states, he traveled thousands of miles to get from one church to another. He was followed by such great men as O. R. Rouse and M. E. Drake who blazed the trail to many new fields of the great Southwest. In the Carolinas, Georgia, and on down in Florida, was W. H. Cross, the father of our Assistant General Overseer, James A. Cross. Few of us even remember him, but the great Recorder in the sky has made a record and remembers the many days he went without food and even a place to lay his head, while at home his family sacrificed and prayed for his success.

E. W. Williams who went to his reward before the age of retirement spent many days and nights in new field work with no financial backing.

Roy Miller, who was attacked by a mob and probably would have been stomped to death had it not been for the writer and an outside friend who came on the scene in time to save his life. He died later without recovering from his injury.

S. J. Heath and wife pioneered throughout the State of Georgia and preached the gospel through much suffering. She will be remembered as one of our greatest pianists in our early assemblies. Earl P. Paulk, Sr., now a noted minister of the Church, was converted in their early revivals.

David LaFleur (colored), T. S. Payne, and H. L. Trim were great pioneers. The names come faster than I can write. There are so many that there is not room to record them. This article is supposed to be limited to 2,000 words, but how can one describe the great pioneers of the Church of God in 2,000 words? It would take that many to tell of Sister Trim, formerly known as Flora Bowers, who was operating a rescue home for fallen girls in the City of Tampa, almost before I can remember.

Many great pioneers are still with us. Perhaps the most of them did not start quite as early as those who are deceased, although some did.

E. E. Simmons, who was a minister before I can remember, served the Church as state overseer and was one of our early foreign missionaries to Jamaica.

H. B. Simmons, a brother, also a charter member of the Church, served as one of our early overseers of South Carolina and Virginia.

E. L. Simmons, while much younger, entered the ministry early in life and went to the Bahama Islands as a missionary before he was married. I have been in his home when his principal diet was grits and sometimes no gravy. He put cooking soda in the grits to color them up a little, imagining they might taste better.

R. P. Johnson preached the gospel in his own front yard for weeks as he had little protection off of his own personal property. The result was that a great church was established.

A few years later Paul H. Walker pioneered the great Northwest, establishing churches in the Dakotas, Western Canada, and Montana. Through the ice and snow he endured the hardships, but set the old landmarks that remain until this day.

In Michigan, M. P. Cross, though a Southerner,

ploughed through the ice and snow for years because of his love for the Church. Recently he returned to enjoy some of the fruits of his labor.

Brother and Sister G. M. Bloomingdale, who may not be too generally known, labored on Prince Edward Island off the coast of Maine without sufficient food until Sister Bloomingdale was so weakened that she could go no farther. When we heard of the serious conditions, we rushed to their aid by sending food and money, but it was too late. She bade her husband and small children goodbye and left them. With sad hearts and tear-dimmed eyes, they buried her. The children were sent to the orphanage while Brother Bloomingdale tried to carry on alone.

J. H. Ingram, perhaps the greatest world-wide pioneer, has probably suffered as much as any living person to carry the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

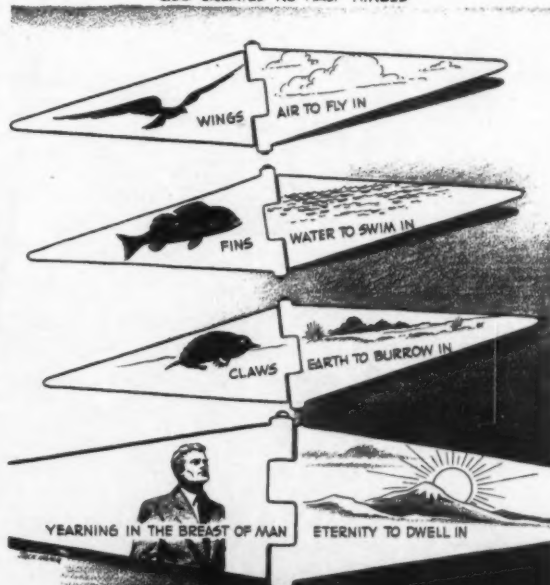
None of these had any financial backing, but had to trust God fully for their support.

Recently, in searching some records, I found where our General Overseer did much of his correspondence on the back of form letters in order to save stationery and money; perhaps, a thing that none of us would dream of doing today. It was necessary in the early days in order to spread the gospel.

There are many others whose names I have failed to mention; some whom I never knew; men, whom the Lord will remember, who hazarded their lives for the sake of the gospel. They will not be forgotten on that great day when all the great pioneers from all ages come marching in to be rewarded according to their works.

No, the Church did not reach its present glory by accident. It cost many heartaches, sacrifices, and sufferings to bring it to its present condition. Do we regret it? No. If we had it all to do over again, would we do it? Yes, a thousand times yes. The trials of this road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way.

GOD CREATES NO HALF-HINGES



"THY KINGDOM IS AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM." — PSA 145:13

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